

was a man who never imagined such a horrific tragedy could befall his daughter, and that his family could be victimized so cruelly; however, he refused to stand there and do nothing. He became an advocate; he became Jessica's voice. This ordinary man became an extraordinary dad and I am truly honored to pay him this tribute.

That's just the way it is.

HONORING JOSEPH H. HALLISSEY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to and celebrate the storied career of Joseph H. Hallissey. His 60 years of remarkable leadership, in positions at the YMCA, Hallissey Travel, the Dearborn Public Schools, and the Henry Ford Community College, more than distinguish Mr. Hallissey as a truly impassioned and accomplished citizen.

After serving his country as an officer in the United States Air Force from 1950 to 1953, Mr. Hallissey excelled in his time at the YMCA, as well as in his years as a travel agent during which time he served as President, Trustee, and General Congress Chairperson for the American Society of Travel Agents. Mr. Hallissey was honored as Travel Agent of the Year by the 30,000 member American Society of Travel agents, and "Travel Person of the Year" for his efforts in founding the Institute of Certified Travel Agents in Detroit.

While Mr. Hallissey was indeed an invaluable aid to those who wished to escape for a short time, his work in that area was, and continues to be, equaled only by his ceaseless effort to better the lives of those around him. Through the years he has served on numerous committees supporting public education, the Dearborn Public Schools, and Henry Ford Community College, and co-chaired seven campaigns generating hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for these institutions. He has also served on the Board of Directors and fundraising campaigns for countless community organizations, among them: Centurions of Dearborn, Dearborn Chamber of Commerce, Dearborn Goodfellows, Dearborn Rotary Club, Fairlane Club, Henry Ford Hospital, and Inter-service Club Council of Dearborn.

Mr. Hallissey and his lovely wife Veronica have been recognized for their longstanding support of public education by having the Dearborn Public Schools' Miller Element School Library Resource Center and the Henry Ford Community College North Hall dedicated in their honor. Mr. Hallissey's commitment to public education was also clearly expressed as he excelled during his career as Coordinator of Community Relations and Ventures in Partnership Coordinator for the Dearborn Public Schools, as well as in his career as Director of the Henry Ford Community College Office of Development. He also serves as chairperson for the Scholarship Committee of the University of Michigan Alumni Club of the Greater Detroit and reviews hundreds of scholarship applications annually.

Admittedly, I am not the first of those who have found it fit to admire Mr. Hallissey's compassionate contributions. He has been hon-

ored by many organizations for his community volunteer efforts, receiving the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" Award, the Dearborn Rotary Distinguished Community Service Award, the Dearborn Inter-Service Club Council "Member of the Year" Award, the Henry Ford Community College Distinguished Service Award on two occasions in 1976 and 1991, and the Henry Ford Community College President's award. Joseph Hallissey's commitment to bettering the lives of those around him, and endless efforts to create a vibrant, outreaching educational community, will not soon be forgotten. I would like to thank Joseph Hallissey for his ceaseless and industrious humanitarian accomplishments over the past 60 years, and would ask that all my colleagues rise to wish him the best for a long and rewarding retirement.

FOR JOB WELL DONE DURING CITIZENSHIP DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to thank our staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication in holding one of our most successful Citizenship Days.

Citizenship Day is an event that our office has held for the past 12 years. It is an event that assists legal residents in becoming Citizens. Since 1994 this event has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've had since becoming a Member of Congress. To be able to assist someone in their dream of becoming a citizen of this great Nation is truly amazing. This year we were able to assist over 320 people process their applications for citizenship.

In order to become a citizen, one must go through a series of stages to fully complete their application forms. Our office assists these very people by setting up a one-stop application processing opportunity. We set up various stages where applicants were able to get assistance in filling out the application form, take the necessary pictures, purchase a cashiers check for the application fee, speak with and receive quality control of their application from an immigration attorney, and the postal service provided the opportunity to send their citizenship application by certified mail.

None of this would have been possible without the help of our wonderful volunteers that took time from their families to be with us on this great day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), J.P. Morgan Chase, NALCO, LULAC, the U.S. Postal Service and Mamacita's Restaurant for their dedication to the community and for the intricate role they played in assisting many of our residents fulfill their dreams of becoming U.S. Citizens.

I would also like to give a special thanks to the following volunteers that made this day such a success: Constable Victor Trevino and his officers, Ms. Theresa Turnini, Mr. Charles R. Flores, Ms. Herlinda Garcia, Mr. Francisco B. Rodriguez III, Mrs. Margaret Rodriguez, Ms. Josephine Mendoza, Mr. John Martinez, Mr. Rafael Palafox, Ms. Juana Wilson, Ms. Anna

Nunez, Ms. Mary Closner, Ms. Amanda Stewart, Ms. Rose B. Garcia, Mr. Anselmo Davila, Mr. Guadalupe Flores Jr., Ms. Frances Munoz, Ms. Veronica Sanchez, Ms. Xiaochun Zhou, Mr. Jaime Elizondo, Ms. Sylvia Ramirez-Martinez, Ms. Sylvia Espadin, Ms. Natasha Jabbar, Ms. Thelma Valle, Miss Perla Gonzalez, Ms. Sophie Hu, Mr. Joe Vail, Ms. Teresa Murguia, Miss Krystal Hernandez, Ms. Frances Hernandez, Mr. Francisco Valle, Ms. Veronica Avalos, Ms. Ursula Featherston, Ms. Rosalinda Salazar, Ms. Carmen Galle, Ms. Martina Garza, Ms. Patrese Ruffin-Bush, Ms. Patricia Perez, Mr. Adrian Espadin, Mr. Edward Gonzalez, Dr. Melissa Najera, Ph.D., Mr. Cassandra Juarez, Ms. Clarissa Juarez, Mr. John Gavidia, Ms. Esther Arrendell, Mr. Jimmy Jackson, Mr. Jose Henriquez, Ms. Santa Herrera, Ms. Martha Bulbai, Mrs. Kristen Quan, Ms. Ada Smoot, Mr. Eduardo Garcia, Ms. Cristina Valdez, Ms. Claudia Rodas, Mr. Eric Rodas, Ms. Ivonne Moreira, Ms. Jenny Marquez, Ms. Terasina Niles, Ms. Erika Faz, Mr. Kirk Savarese, Ms. Jeanette Niles, Ms. Tania Buitron, Ms. Veronica Sainz, Ms. Belinda Castro, Ms. Sylvia Halfhill and Ms. Sandy Heathman.

For too long we have been hearing that immigrants are a detriment to our society. Well I'm here to tell you that most immigrants are just like our forefathers who established this great Nation of ours. They are just like the millions of immigrants who have come before them longing for a better life, longing to become American citizens, longing for the American Dream.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUE LOWES

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Gwendolyn Sue Lowes, as she prepares to move from Henderson, Nevada to Tyler, Texas. Sue has worked in my District Office since I was elected to the House of Representatives in 2002, and has been an invaluable asset and outstanding example of what a person ought to be.

Sue was born on October 12, 1946 in Breckenridge, Texas. She graduated from McCollum High School in San Antonio, Texas. After high school, Sue attended San Antonio Junior College and began working for Traveler's Insurance. She spent more than thirty years in the insurance business. She worked for the prominent San Antonio insurance firm of Cato & Cato for nineteen years and was known among her colleagues and clients as a bright, cheerful, talented person who always went the extra mile to get the job done. After leaving San Antonio, Sue and her husband Ted lived in Florida and Northern California. They moved to Las Vegas in 1992 and began working at my insurance office in 1993. Sue came to my staff with an outstanding reputation in the insurance field. During the ten years she spent at my Farmer's office, she always maintained an extraordinary work ethic, a positive attitude and a friendly demeanor.

In 2003, Sue joined my Congressional staff and has been an incredible asset to my staff and my constituents. Sue balances a variety of duties with grace and skill. She greets

every constituent with a smile. She is a proactive person who actively seeks opportunities to improve her performance and the performance of the office as a whole. She is a loyal, hardworking and selfless person who always meets a challenge with a positive attitude. Sue has coordinated the Military Academy nominations for the students in my district since 2003. She has done an outstanding job recruiting community members to serve on the Academy Selection Committee, organizing outreach to local high school students and developing relationships with each of our great Military Academies in order to facilitate the nomination process. Sue truly makes a difference in the lives of those who have had the privilege of working with her.

Although Sue has an outstanding record of professional performance, she is most outstanding because of who she is. Sue is a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She has two children, Margaret Jean "Maggie" and John Perry, and three grandchildren. She and her husband have been happily married for eighteen years. Sue is a well-rounded individual who actively pursues her talents and interests. She is an accomplished athlete, an excellent cook, an avid hiker and a talent at many other hobbies. Throughout her life, Sue's warmth, kindness and zest for life have enabled her to nurture strong relationships with her family and friends. Sue is loved and respected by all who know her because of her wisdom, her compassion and her supportive nature.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Sue Lowes for her extraordinary commitment to our community, state and nation, and for achieving excellence in all aspects of her life. She has been a wonderful friend for nearly fourteen years and she is truly an admirable person. She will be greatly missed in my office, but I wish her the very best as she goes back to Texas to begin the next phase of her life.

TRIBUTE TO DAKOTA STEWART WEST

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in great pride and pleasure, to inform the House of a wonderful event that has taken place in my family.

On June 20, 2006, my stepdaughter Emily and her husband Allen West, of Nashville, Tennessee, gave birth to their first child, a daughter. I am proud to report that Dakota is a happy, healthy baby girl. Cynthia and I, along with Allen's parents George and Julie, are delighted with this joyful addition to our family. She reminds us again that, as Art Buchwald once said, "The best things in life aren't things."

Looking into the face of this beautiful new person causes me to marvel again at God's miracle of life and to celebrate Dakota's safe arrival. She also elicits from me the renewed responsibility that I, and we in Congress have, to see that she and her generation will live in freedom, in a safe and prosperous nation and world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of our colleagues join me in wishing all the best to Dakota Stewart West.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of H. Res. 877, the rule for consideration of the House report for H.R. 5631, the Department of Defense appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2007, on June 20, 2006, I improperly referred to the Ranking Member of the Department of Defense Appropriations Subcommittee as Mr. SABO of Minnesota. I would like the record to show that I meant to refer to the Ranking Member of the Department of Defense Appropriations Subcommittee as Mr. MURTHA of Pennsylvania.

34TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise on this auspicious occasion to celebrate the 34th anniversary of Title IX—the landmark legislation to ensure equal access to sports opportunities for young men and women. At the outset, I commend and thank all of the men and women that have contributed to its success over the past 34 years—empowering women to make responsible decisions and to contribute positively to society.

Mr. Speaker, on this anniversary, I must express my concern over the Title IX loophole created by the Department of Education on March 17, 2005. This loophole undermines this important civil rights legislation. Rather than continuing the mandate on institutions to maintain equality in men's and women's sports, the change shifted the burden to female students to show their interest in and entitlement to participation opportunities, effectively allowing schools to justify disparities in treatment. This loophole—which was established without notice or opportunity for public comment—is having a devastating impact on women's sports.

Mr. Speaker, if the fabric of society is only as strong as the threads that hold it together, then surely the duty of government must be to reinforce those threads, not to pull them apart. Yet allowing colleges to gauge interest in women's sports based on a single e-mail survey does exactly that—it unravels the fabric. It sends the message to girls that the ability to play sports is somehow unnatural. No one questions a boy who wants to play soccer; no one asks him to fill out a survey. So why do girls have to jump over hurdles to enjoy the same activity? Hurdles must remain in track and field where they belong, not in civil rights legislation. That is exactly the battle Title IX was designed to end, and it did . . . until March 17, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, in 1971, 1 in 27 high school girls participated in athletics. Now it's 1 in 3. The explosion in athletic opportunities open to young women has generated enormous interest. The ratings for the women's final at Wimbledon, the most watched women's sport-

ing event, are generally the same as the men's. In 1996, it was the U.S. women's soccer and basketball teams that captured Olympic gold. Interest follows opportunity, not vice versa.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this Congress to demonstrate our commitment to our Nation's young women. We know that playing sports improves self-esteem, teamwork skills, and psychological well-being. We know that 82 percent of executive businesswomen played organized sports after elementary school. What we don't know is why the current Administration, in light of overwhelming evidence touting the benefits of athletics, has made it easiest for colleges and high schools to shirk their responsibility to women.

Mr. Speaker, this is why I, along with fellow members of the House of Representatives, are working to protect Title IX. In addition to urging the President to withdraw the new rules, I am an original sponsor of House Resolution 735 expressing that these changes are inconsistent with longstanding Department policies and fundamental principles of equality. I will continue to fight to address these inequalities that threaten to reverse 34 years of progress.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 889, COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference report. It was my pleasure to serve as a conferee on the Fiscal Year 2006 Coast Guard authorization bill.

I am a strong supporter of the Coast Guard men and women who valiantly serve our nation.

Through their hard work and dedication, 33,000 people were saved in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

This will not be the last time that we will turn to the Coast Guard for help.

Congress must provide the Coast Guard with the support it needs to perform its security and life-saving missions.

The Coast Guard's current assets are deteriorating quickly, and the Administration has clearly failed to realize that there is a problem.

The Administration's request for the Deepwater program, which will provide the Coast Guard with more modern equipment, was \$32 million less than last year.

Congress, recognizing the problem, authorized funds in this bill that will help accelerate the purchasing of Deepwater assets.

I had hoped that even more funds would be authorized for the Deepwater program. In the Homeland Security Committee's mark-up of H.R. 4954, the SAFE Ports Act, I supported an amendment offered by Rep. Donna Christensen (D-VI) that would have provided enough funds to complete the Deepwater program in ten years rather than the current twenty years. I wish that provision had been accepted in this bill.

Nonetheless, the funding level in this bill is a good first step.